The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and their relationship to the benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918. Entered as second-class matter December 14, 1932, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Give to Your Community Chest!

WHOLE NO. 2013 WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1949 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer* VOL. 39, NO. 45

Unions Help Play Santa To Virgin Islands Kids

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York—A few years ago, a New York newspaperman, Ted Poston, came down with double pneumonia. He had to stop working and with his wife he went down to the Virgin Islands to convalesce.

While the Postons were there, they saw the poverty and lack of opportunity for the islanders, almost 100 percent Negro. They were particularly moved by the plight of the children. Mrs. Poston, Marie, a field examiner here with the National Labor Relations Board, was particularly determined that when her husband, now a star reporter on the New York Post Home News, got better, she would devote her spare time to helping the children of this Caribbean island possession.

Marie and Ted Poston returned to New York and they began to collect contributions in goods from their friends, and their friends' friends. Success didn't come overnight. It took the combined action of New York's trade unions and particularly the AFL.

In 1946, there was organized an Ladies Garment Workers Union underprivileged children and they had their first real Christmas party with more than 3,000 in attendance.

It was a success; it was a success because New York's trade unions were interested by Marie Poston in the Virgin Islands' kids and here's what happened:

Local 418, International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers of the AFL and Playthings and Novelty Workers of the CIO rallied to employers who contributed toys, playthings, books and Christmas wrapping paper.

Local 580, Candy and Confectionery Workers Union of the AFL, got a candy company to contribute hundreds of pounds of candy.

Local 105, International Ladies Garment Workers Union of the AFL was able to obtain clothing for several hundred babies and older children.

Locals 202 and 214 of the Building Service Employes Union created the packages, picked them up at the Chelsea warehouse and delivered them to the boats and Liz Guerdis delivered for shipment, free.

Other local unions who have come in this year are Local 22050, Wholesale Candy and Novelty Salesman's Union, and Local 452, Candy and Confectionery Workers Union of the AFL.

The gifts for the Virgin Island kids are piling up in the Chelsea warehouse and thanks to our trade unionists and the Santa Claus Postons, the kids will have a real Christmas next month.

Chicago Unions Construct $8,000 Fire Proof House

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent for AFL News Service

Chicago.—Patrick F. Sullivan, president of the Chicago and Cook County Building Trades Council for 25 years, was honored at a testimonial banquet to celebrate the anniversary.

Proceeds of the dinner in Chicago's Stevens Hotel were sent to the City of Hope Hospital at Duarte, Calif., supported by AFL unions for treatment of low-income persons with tuberculosis, cancer and other major diseases.

Sullivan was born March 2, 1879, in a cottage still standing in the old "Back of the Yards" district on Chicago's South Side. He was only 14 when he went to work. He attended night school, also, and graduated sometime as an apprentice electrician.

He was a charter member of the Electricians' Local No. 288. In 1904 he transferred to Local 134, of which he has been a member ever since. He was recording secretary of Local 134 from 1905 to 1909, and president in 1909.

Under his leadership, the building trades council recovered from the effects of the infamous Landis Award Decision of Sept. 1, 1921, and became a powerful influence in the progress of the city, as well as representative authority for the building trades.

Currently, the council, under Sullivan's leadership is resisting attempts to relax the Chicago building code to permit use of combustible materials on walls and ceilings. Building trades men are organizing committees to visit members of the Chicago City Council to urge them to vote for safe construction.

The Building Trades Council is fighting for a code that will require use of materials which will resist fire long enough to allow occupants of a dwelling to escape and let the firemen in if a fire starts.

A proposed new code now before the City Council would permit the use of a vegetable fibre product which was the determining factor in the Hinsdale, Ill., hospital fire of last April in which 74 lives were lost. The National Fire Protection Association found the Labelle Hotel fire in Cincinnati with another tremendous loss of life, also resulted from the use of this fibre cause—a highly combustible interior finish.

The AFL building trades unions, in cooperation with the National Association of Real Estate Boards, are building a demonstration home in Chicago to prove safety need not be sacrificed to bring home construction within reach of working people's means.

Byron Dalton, business manager of the Chicago Plasterers' Union, representing the building trades in the project, said: "We are leading the battle against relaxation of the city building code. We are making a test of substitutes for plaster in ceiling and wall construction."

Though not intended as the answer to the housing problem, the demonstration home will be better equipped than any other to resist fire or explosion, Dalton said. There will be no loose or projecting corrugations that would become projectiles if an explosion occurred, he said.

"And you couldn't set it on fire with a blow torch anywhere," said Dalton.

The house is designed for the $8,000 price limit. But in the matter of what is finished the house will be sold at actual cost. The money goes to the Chicago Community Fund, a charity organization. The real estate group is supplying the site and a guarantee that the AFL unions will furnish labor and materials.

The house will have three bedrooms, and will stand on a lot 45 by 125 feet. It will be built of cement blocks, with a concrete floor. The outside walls and the roof will be concrete, with a Portland cement gunite plaster mixture, applied with a new machine process.

The machine is a big hopper on wheels, holding, with a three-man hose, through which the cement and plaster mixture is fed. The mixing machine will be used to plaster the inside walls, also. It has been used on a large government-sponsored housing project in Chicago, but this will be the first use in small residence building.

Use of the machine is speedier and more economical than the old-fashioned method of slapping the plaster on with a trowel, although one workman throws the mixture on the wall with the machine's nozzle, smoothing it out with a long rod, smoothing it out with a trowel. The closer than old-fashioned plastering job is done. The big saving can be left outside, while the hose carrying the plaster into the room to be finished.

Care will be taught to satisfy people who complain that plasterers are trying to keep up with the times. Despite the technological advances and improved methods which have made plastering easier work, the plasterers are glad to have them. But we still fight fiercely to save the American people from fire traps."

European Aid Hits Seven Billion Mark

Washington—The Economic Cooperation Administration reported that Marshall Plan aid for free European countries totaled $7,000,000,000 mark. The AFL is supporting the program.

Of the $7,008,869,000 spent since the plan was launched April 3, 1948, the sum of $1,914,705,000 has gone for direct business and investment, or to France and her territories—the two leading beneficiaries of the plan.

The announcement was accompanied by a report that the United States "is not importing enough goods from countries receiving Marshall aid for them to earn sufficient dollars to pay for what they must buy from us."

Urging changes in American tariff and import control policies, a commission of business men and government officials said that "many items produced in Europe could be imported into the United States with little or no effect upon our own industrial economy."

Two College Studies Bolster Labor Fears Of Taft-Hartley Act

Washington.—New studies of the Taft-Hartley law just published by two of the nation's leading university industrial relations schools bolster American Federation of Labor charges against that law.

Horace E. Sheldon, in a research bulletin for the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, concludes that "the Taft-Hartley Act has on closed shop in industry has failed because employers generally perceive that to continue closed shop hiring practices."

Dale E. Good, in a bulletin for the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois, reports that "the Taft-Hartley labor law "union organizing has not proceeded at the same pace as under the Wagner Act" and "the role of government in labor relations has been considerably enlarged and labor disputes have become a major concern of the courts."

While each bulletin is an attempt to report some of the things that have occurred under the two years the Taft-Hartley operations, the cold sober conclusions almost entirely support the AFL's criticisms of the act and AFL forecasts of its failures.

Through almost a century of bargaining, most of the unions, the AFL knows that hundreds of employers were the closed shop. As Sheldon's survey was made in Buffalo:

"There was clear indication in Buffalo, as elsewhere, that many employers, that many sections of management have been generally reconciled with their experience with the closed shop," he said. Much of Mr. Sheldon's text reflects chagrin over this fact and his advocacy of the use of the closed shop as the alternative to its complete prohibition, since prohibition—as in the case of alcoholic beverages—has failed.

Mr. Good's study is a little more comprehensive. What he calls "employer resistance" is based on the experience such as:

"1. Union membership appears not to have declined but some evidence exists that the 'cut-back' of employers' activities union organizing has not proceeded at the same pace as under the Wagner Act.

"2. The national emergency provisions of the act have not eliminated strikes in industries affecting the national health and safety; however, the strikes have been shortened.

"3. Cases arising out of provisions of the law have been a major concern of the National Labor Relations Board. Due to the nature of the charges, the board has acted upon a greater percentage of charges against unions than against employers. The expeditious relief originally sought by the board have been against unions. The role of government in labor relations has been considerably enlarged and labor disputes have increasingly become a major concern of the courts."

Another AFL official described the charge as one which will often be relatively greater importance in Canada's labor relations law, adding now and the much less importance of penalties. The AFL official said the change to the higher standard of living, the greater strength of unions, the depression standard of 1935 when the present labor law was constructed.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, in his keynote address to the convention, said the law to revise the cost-of-living index to reflect changing consumer qualities, scarcity of products. The campaign against the law began with a concession made for the deterioration in the index and subsequently refused to grapple with the basic problem of correcting the index to reflect accurately the workers.

The revision is expected to give a truer picture but will not completely correct the index, it was said, since the survey is getting under way as prices are rising and workers are not yet affect this spiral.

The index is a monthly compilation of prices on more than 1,500 items and services purchased by a typical income ($3,000 a year) families in 56 cities. It is used as a guide mainly for food, clothing, rent, household furnishings, transportation, and miscellaneous goods and services.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the Department of Labor, is doing its best to reflect such household purchases as frozen foods and synthetic fibres, and rate refrigerators and frying chickens.

He said the survey will cover 24 cities, work to be started in 11 of them by November 14. It calls for information on characteristics of about 500,000 families, detailed spending data from more than 20,000 of them, and collection of more than 400,000 price quotations from thousands of retail stores and service establishments.

The revised index is expected to be available for use in 1952.

Mr. Brooks said the AFL is expected

IBEW Asks Each Member To Learn T-H Dangers

Washington.—The big International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the AFL is appealing to each of its 330,000 members to learn and understand the union-busting evils of the Taft-Hartley law.

The drive, getting underway with the December issue of the union's journal, is believed to be the first and most ambitious union-wide attempt yet undertaken to educate every rank and file member on the dangers of the law.

The campaign is expected to create a groundswell across the nation of rank-and-file pressure on Taft-Hartley supporters in congress for repeal of this law or to elect a successor who will. The movement may spread to other unions.

The electrical workers have ordered copies of the AFL pamphlet, "What's Wrong With the Taft-Hartley Law?—Plenty!" stapled as supplements to their monthly journal going to each union member. As a preface, AFL President William Green explained that the full text of the pamphlet was discussed at the St. Paul convention.

"Labor did its best. It was made clear, until the Taft-Hartley law is wiped from the statute books," Mr. Green said. "Briefly, this report explains why labor opposes the Taft-Hartley law and why the candidates of the party, pledged to its repeal, have elected last year. We confidently expect that Congress will see the justice of our position."

Then Mr. Green's president, Avl J. Scott Milne, secretary, addressed this joint plea to all IBEW members:

"The Taft-Hartley law is wrong, and it is not wrong merely because (as its chief sponsors claim) labor officials have declared it to be wrong. It is wrong because it is unfair to all organized labor. It is wrong for you.

"Reading the pamphlet will be time profitably spent. It is not a shrill, venomous indictment, but a sober, painstaking study that blasts to bits the anachronisms which have been perfected into the Taft-Hartley law. It is drawn from our experience and the experiences of all the international unions of the American Federation of Labor which have had to do business under the act.

"Read this pamphlet tonight—then pass it on to a friend who is willing to be influenced by the facts."

U.S. Begins Revising Cost-of-Living Index

AFL Officials Welcome Action to Remove the Cost-of-Living Bias

Washington.—The government began the revision of the formula in its cost-of-living index which has consistently underestimated the increase in cutlites in making the pay check meet living costs.

AFL officials welcomed the action which the government unveiled to remind their Congressmen to appropriate funds to complete the 3-year, $4,000,000 project. The administration budget for Congress appropriated only $1,126,000 for the first year's operations.

"We've been pressing for this revision for a long time," George Brooks of the AFL Research Department, chief of the Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, told the AFL's labor advisory committee to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"The revision should have been made long before the war," he added. "The index has consistently underestimated the rise in living costs because of the bias in the rent component."

Another AFL official described the change as one which will show the relatively greater importance of rents in the family budget of today now and the much less importance of gasoline. The AFL official said the change to the higher standard of living, the greater strength of unions, the depression standard of 1935 when the present index was constructed.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, in his keynote address to the convention, said the law to revise the cost-of-living index to reflect changing consumer qualities, scarcity of products. The campaign against the law began with a concession made for the deterioration in the index and subsequently refused to grapple with the basic problem of correcting the index to reflect accurately the workers.

The revision is expected to give a truer picture but will not completely correct the index, it was said, since the survey is getting under way as prices are rising and workers are not yet affect this spiral.

The index is a monthly compilation of prices on more than 1,500 items and services purchased by a typical income ($3,000 a year) families in 56 cities. It is used as a guide mainly for food, clothing, rent, household furnishings, transportation, and miscellaneous goods and services.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the Department of Labor, is doing its best to reflect such household purchases as frozen foods and synthetic fibres, and rate refrigerators and frying chickens.

He said the survey will cover 24 cities, work to be started in 11 of them by November 14. It calls for information on characteristics of about 500,000 families, detailed spending data from more than 20,000 of them, and collection of more than 400,000 price quotations from thousands of retail stores and service establishments.

The revised index is expected to be available for use in 1952.

Mr. Brooks said the AFL is espe-

CANADA HIKES RENTS 20 PERCENT DEC. 15

Ottawa, Canada.—The Canadian government announced that all rents may be raised 20 to 25 percent by December 15.

The 20 percent hike will be permitted for apartments and single houses for hotels and boarding houses. Landlords must offer a one-year lease, permitting tenants to terminate it on 30 days' notice. However, if the tenant refuses the offer, the accommodation must become completely free of federal rent controls.

Herzog Vote Perils International Unions

ITU Decision Adds To Labor Board's Anti-Union String

AFL Leaders Say Labor Board Head Helped Anti-Union Forces

Washington.—The National Labor Relations Board's decisions in the cases brought by the Chicago and American Newspaper Publishers Association under the Taft-Hartley law adds to the growing string of anti-labor rulings by the government board.

The AFL executive council, General Counsel Albert Woll, and President Woodruff Randolph of the International Typographical Union, all reported on this growing list of anti-labor decisions at the 68th ITU convention.

The Executive Council noted that Labor Board Chairman Paul M. Herzog "found himself forced to concur" in one of these nasty anti-labor decisions in the Klassen and Hodgson cases, which held that the Taft-Hartley law prohibits AFL unions from circulating by-passes of struck plants as "unfair" or "do not patronize" list of employers refusing to deal with unions.

Mr. Woll said there were many "anti-labor decisions" by the labor board in the past year.

"While on occasion some of the members of the board seem to go beyond the call of duty in their decision adverse to labor, the prime fault with most of these decisions is to be found in the very provisions of the act the board members are called upon to interpret," he said.

"The Taft-Hartley decisions will continue so long and so fully as the present provisions of the act continue to disgrace and shame the statute books. The surest way to eliminate most completely these anti-labor decisions is to get rid of the act itself."

The convention authorized the Executive Council to "direct and promote such international activities of the typographical union in support of its defensive fight against the Taft-Hartley law. Speaking on adoption of the resolution, Mr. Randolph said:

"We have gone through the torture chamber that is provided in the National Labor Relations Board in the Taft-Hartley Act. We appeared in the so-called Taft-Hartley union shop election authorized in the act. We have a trade and a craft. We are trying to work together. The government in that law is attempting to cut that craft in two and make that craft war with and often of the employer, and we are precluded by the law and by injunction or interpretation of the law from attempting to protect ourselves from that evil.

"It is to this particular feature that I am directing your attention. It is my hope that the Executive Council of the ITU will continue to keep the matter to the point of supplying not only the information about what has happened, but supplying the advice to the membership how to avoid the pitfalls of that act and go through the tortures and punishment and the cost that the International Typographical Union has gone through during these two years."

Truman Lists 7 High Points Of Wage Law Amendments

Washington.—President Truman said in signing the amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act raising the legal minimum wage from 75 cents to $1 an hour in January 25 that they will help to carry out our fight to promote the general welfare of the people of the United States.

Excerpts from his statement and 7 benefits of the new law which he listed follow:

"It is particularly gratifying to me to sign this bill during the week which marks the 11th anniversary of the effective date of the original Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. This act has proved to be wise and beneficial legislation—not only for workers but for employers and for our whole economy.

"(1) Increase the minimum to 75 cents 60 days after its enactment, this act will:

"(1) Require every employer to pay to each of his employes who is engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, wages at a rate of not less than 75 cents an hour. This provision will benefit approximately 1,500,000 of our wage earners, amounting in most cases to from 5 to 15 cents an hour.

"(2) Require every employer engaged in processing any oppressive child labor in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce. This provision would result in the removal from the evil of child labor from our interstate and foreign trade and industry.

"(3) Enable employes to recover unpaid back wages owed them under the act in suits brought by the employes themselves upon request. This should greatly improve the effective enforcement of the act and reduce the amount of unpaid wages now owed workers.

"(4) Provide a comprehensive definition of the term "regular rate" which is used in the act as the basis for computing the extra pay an employe must receive when he works more than 40 hours per week. This provision would enable employers and employes to calculate with greater certainty the types of payments that must, and those that need not, be included in computing the regular rate of pay for overtime purposes.

"(5) Encourage the development of plans for employment on an annual wage basis by providing a flexible method for computing liability in the overtime provisions. These plans assure stability of income for workers and stability of employment for employers.

"(6) Bring within the coverage of the 75-cent minimum wage employes of airline companies employed in fish and seafood canneries. This is a step in the right direction of broadening the act to bring within its scope more groups of workers.

"(7) Preserve and strengthen restrictions on industrial homework where necessary to protect the minimum wage.

"These provisions are constructive steps of great importance in developing a sound Federal Fair Labor Standards Act.

"I regret that the new act exempts from its provisions some workers who have been covered heretofore and that it fails to extend coverage to many other groups of workers who need its protection. But the improvement made by the new act will go far toward achieving our basic purpose of assuring minimum labor standards necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being of workers."

CONVENTION AWARDED TO HOUSTON IN 1950

Washington.—The American Federation of Labor will hold its 1950 convention at Houston, Texas, beginning Monday, Sept. 11.

That was announced by Secretary-Treasurer George Meany upon completion of a mail poll of executive council members on invitations to come to Houston, Cleveland or Miami, Fla., next year.

The council has been assured of adequate convention facilities with the Rice Hotel as headquarters.

Nevada State President Urges Buying U. S. Bonds

Reno, Nev.—President Harry Depaoli of the Nevada Federation of Labor urges members here to buy U. S. Savings Bonds. He says:

"Every American worker can help himself and his country by the use thought and good judgment in spending the dollars he has earned. Such careful spending will help permit some sort of regular and systematic saving.

"For this habit of thrift, there is no better way than by the regular purchase of U. S. Savings Bonds."

60,000 QUIT INSURANCE

San Francisco.—The California State Federation of Labor reported that the third week of the AFL boycott of private disability insurance plans showed 60,000 members had asked forms to withdraw from private companies which opposed liberalization of the insurance during the last session of the state legislature.

E. L. McGill, Founder Of Union, Succumbs

New York.—Earle Lewis McGill, 52, one of the 5 founders of the Radio and Television Directors Guild of the AFL, died here in 1948. Funeral arrangement was at New Haven, Conn.

Mr. McGill served as president of the New York local, president of the international and after his death as treasurer of the international.

As producer, director and casting director with the Columbia Broadcasting System, Mr. McGill developed many of the techniques now common in radio direction. Among programs he directed were The Columbia Workshop, American School of The Air, Report to The Nation, Town Meeting and Radio Readers Digest.

He wrote "Radio Directing," basic textbook on the subject; pioneered in radio education; directed programs for Voice of America, and taught at Fordham University and New York University.

UNIONS WILL INCREASE THEIR POLITICAL ROLE

Dunkirk, N. Y.—If British labor unions serve as a guide, then American unions will play a steadily increasing emphasis on their political role.

That is the belief of Prof. John Stevens of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University in an analysis of "Labor's Problems and Goals."

BLOCK MISSOURI RENT RISE

St. Louis.—Reuben T. Wood, president of Missouri Federation of Labor, testified against proposed state legislation to decontrol rents in Missouri. Officials from St. Louis, Kansas City and St. Joseph, where there had been no easing of the housing shortage crisis as the state since the war. On the basis of the testimony the state house of representatives killed the bill.

CHISELING EMPLOYERS CAUGHT

Albany.—The New York State Department of Labor collected $429,000 in wage underpayments for workers during the first 9 months of 1949. The bulk was from offending employers who had paid less than legal minimum wages.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the intellectual, industrial, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

Give to Your Community Chest!

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1949 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Gray Lists Threats To Housing Program

Asks Building Trades Councils Put Strength Behind Projects

Washington.—Richard J. Gray, president of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department, called on all affiliated unions and councils to mobilize their full strength behind the federal public housing and slum clearance programs at local levels.

Mr. Gray pointed out that 42 states have enabling legislation where these programs can more ahead, if pushed at the city and county level. He urged special work to get such legislation in Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

"You can be sure," Mr. Gray said in a letter, "that the dark forces opponents of public housing will be organized to sabotage the program every step of the way. Labor must be alert at each stage to be sure that all of the necessary measures are taken to make possible the authorization and establishment of a public housing program.

"Local building and construction trades councils are urged to make the public housing and slum clearance programs in their localities one of their first orders of business," he said.

Then, stressing the wide community interest of organized labor in housing, he concluded:

"Here is a fine opportunity for building tradesmen to help direct these programs in a way which will make them of maximum value not only to low-income families but to their communities as a whole. We all worked hard for public housing. We must not let the program be weakened or misdirected by our failure to take an active part in it."

Mr. Gray's letter was a swift follow-up to an appeal sent by AFL President William Green to all central labor union bodies to create local housing committees to work for the housing program.

Mr. Gray emphasized also that "unless steps are taken at the local level to have the necessary requirements met and have representation of labor on local housing authorities, our efforts in securing the legislation will fall far short of the objectives we set out to obtain."

These local housing committees of the central and local labor unions have been asked to report when they are established and what progress they make. The reports are to be made to Mr. Green or Harry C. Bates, president of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers Union and chairman of the AFL Housing Committee.

Mr. Gray pointed out that public housing has already been put to full indemnity in at least one large community "because the labor and liberal forces failed to carry a referendum."

"This must not happen in other communities," he said.

AFL PUTS WHAMMY ON CONGRESSMEN

Reading, Pa.—The Conference of Eastern Pennsylvania Central Labor Unions made a record of the vote of Congressman H. Lichtenwalter and Ivor D. Fenton for defeat in the 1950 congressional election.

The Allentown CLU said it will be "conservative on the 1950 election in effort to replace Lichtenwalter, who has voted wrong on every issue in the 31st Congress." The Pottsville CLU said it will try to defeat Fenton, whose record in the 81st Congress is "anti-labor."

The Easton CLU said it will work for the "retention of Representative Francis E. Walter, a Fair Deal stalwart."

Representative George M. Rhodes, elected to Congress from Pennsylvania in 1948, is president of the eastern Pennsylvania conference of central unions and will be backed for re-election.

OFFER GIFT JACKETS

Washington.—The U. S. Treasury's Savings Bond Division announced that specially designed Christmas jackets for savings bonds are available at all bond issuing offices including banks and post offices. The jacket features a snowcapped scene in the Allegheny Mountains with a space for the giver's name.

SAYS HOUSING ACT TO IMPROVE CODES

Washington.—Housing Administrator Raymond M. Foley said the 1949 housing act will improve building and safety codes with a view to cutting housing costs and preventing the spread of slums.

He said the act requires the federal government to consider how local governments modernize their building codes and regulations. But he emphasized that "this does not mean that the federal government is requiring a complete overnight revision of codes."

Foley said his agency is fully aware that code revision and improvement are "a continuing and complex matter."

New Jersey AFL Fights Disability Insurance 'Grab'

Newark, N. J.—The New Jersey State Federation of Labor has demanded "elimination of insurance company participation in the state's temporary disability insurance system."

A similar fight is being waged by the AFL Building and Construction Trades Labor where 60,000 members have threatened a general strike in the several-weeks-old boycott of private insurance companies.

Both state federations are backed by the American Federation of Labor which is opposed to private insurance company participation in those insurance programs paying benefits for workers idled because of illness.

The AFL favors one statewide insurance fund publicly administered. New York, Rhode Island and Washington are the only other states in addition to California and New Jersey where temporary disability insurance plans have been established.

Vincent J. Murphy, secretary-treasurer of the New Jersey AFL, estimated that private insurance companies made $21,000,000 profit for the 9 months ended last September 30 out of the system. The state made the same profit, he said, but this is "not lost to the workers for the $21,000,000 remains in the fund for their benefit."

"It is proof that we will be able to operate the state disability system so as to provide other types of welfare assistance as well," Mr. Murphy said. "It is also proof that unemployment compensation and disability benefit compensation should have been included in the Taft-Hartley law."

He said premiums paid to the state by insurance companies, $21,000,000, and benefits amounted to only $2,500,000.

Hines Says Labor Wants Good Roads

Washington.—Labor wants good roads and it is "not too happy with our present highway system."

Lewis E. Hines, special representative of AFL President William Green, told the annual meeting of the conference of the American Road Builders Association.

He pointed out that the Joint Congressional Committee in its preliminary Report estimated that accrued highway needs will total more than $60,000,000,000 over the next 20 years. "Labor is interested in seeing that those needs are met since it is by moving the items that we become most and there was no need or time to consider the rights of the workers.

"Union security depends on political action, not on the Supreme Court," Mr. Keenan said. He said his views were first expressed when the court upheld the rights of states to regulate or prohibit the closed and union shop. He said the 2 latest injunction decisions bolstered that view.

"The Supreme Court," Mr. Keenan said, "has shown that its decisions shall not forget. The trade union movement will be strong only when we have elected at all levels of government men who are not only friendly to the needs of the majority of our people."

Encouragement for political action was given by AFL General Counsel Albert Woll at the 68th AFL convention.

"While fighting to the tooth in the legal field and on the administrative agencies and boards, we must continue to employ our strength in the legislative and political fields," he said.

"Your political power is not organized labor does not in any degree or to any extent forbid you under

PUNCHES BAG WITH HST

Washington.—Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, paid an Election Day visit to President Truman at the White House.

"I hadn't seen the President in some time and just came in to punch the bag as much as anything else," Mr. Keenan told reporters.

AFL Votes Help Put Them in Congress

MRS. EDNA KELLY

JOHN F. SHELLEY

Supported by American Federation of Labor members and other liberal forces, Mrs. Kelly was elected in New York's 10th district (Brooklyn) to succeed the late Rep. Andrew L. Somers and Mr. Shelley was chosen in California 6th district (San Francisco) to fill the seat held by the late Richard J. Welch. Mrs. Kelly is research director for the Democratic party at Albany, N. Y., and Mr. Shelley is president of the California State Federation of Labor. Both are Democrats.

Supreme Court Findings Keep Labor Hamstrung

Latest Injunction Rule Needs Answer From Labor at Polls

Washington.—Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and 4 of his associate Supreme Court justices voted to keep labor hamstringing in an injunction straitjacket in their latest rulings.

They administered a double lesson, in the view of Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, why union men and women must go to the polls next election day to put in office men friendly to the point of view of labor and the mass of people.

The Supreme Court majority taught their bitter lesson over the objections of Justices Hugo Black, William O. Douglas and Stanley Reed, who, in an unusual statement, said they believed that unions were entitled to a formal court review and opinion on the legality of injunctions issued in national emergencies under the Taft-Hartley law.

But this minority was overruled and labor is left with no alternative but to elect a Congress which will repeal the use of injunctions in labor disputes so explicitly that nothing is left to the discretion of courts —not even to the United States Supreme Court.

The 2 court decisions involved the United Mine Workers of America and 3 railroad unions, Switchmen's Union of North America; the AFL Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

In the miners' case, the court upheld $1,420,000 fines against the union and its president, John L. Lewis, for refusing to obey a lower court order to call off a strike for pensions in March, 1948. The majority refused even to hear the union's case on the constitutionality of the Taft-Hartley national emergency injunctions.

The court decision did not imply that if the miners had obeyed the injunction and gone back to work they have been heard on the constitutional issue. Eight Justices, excluding Clark again, joined in closing the door on that possibility in the railroad case.

There the 3 unions obeyed the lower court order and did not strike in May, 1948. So the United States Supreme Court employed its oldest "dodge" by saying the issue had become moot and there was no need or time to consider the merits of the rights of the workers.

"Union security depends on political action, not on the Supreme Court," Mr. Keenan said. He said his views were first expressed when the court upheld the rights of states to regulate or prohibit the closed and union shop. He said the 2 latest injunction decisions bolstered that view.

"The Supreme Court," Mr. Keenan said, "has shown that its decisions shall not forget. The trade union movement will be strong only when we have elected at all levels of government men who are not only friendly to the needs of the majority of our people."

Encouragement for political action was given by AFL General Counsel Albert Woll at the 68th AFL convention.

"While fighting to the tooth in the legal field and on the administrative agencies and boards, we must continue to employ our strength in the legislative and political fields," he said.

"Your political power is not organized labor does not in any degree or to any extent forbid you under federal law from giving your personal and undiminished support to Labor's League for Political Education. The Taft-Hartley Act restricts only labor organizations—not labor leaders.

"You are not under this law, or any federal law, in any way deprived, by reason of your official capacity in a labor organization, of your right individually as an American citizen to engage in every political activity enjoyed by your fellow Americans."

NORWEGIAN LABOR IS KEPT IN POWER

Oslo, Norway—Haakon Lie, secretary of the Norwegian Labor Party believes that Norway's 1949 national elections were a vote of confidence in the Norwegian labor government and the foreign policy of the United States, and a sweeping rejection of Communism.

His views are being distributed by the Economic Cooperation Administration Mission in Oslo. John E. Gross, former president of the Colorado Federation of Labor, is chief of the mission.

The elections returned the Labor Party to power for another 4 years and cost the Communist Party every seat it had won in the preceding congress. The Communists based their campaign on an attack on Norway's adherence to the Marshall Plan and North Atlantic pact.

On the other hand, the Norwegian Labor Party platform called for full high level employment, job security, continuation of living for farmers, fishermen and lumbermen, and the principle of achieving a balanced economy in Norway so that by 1952 when the Marshall Plan ends the country will be able to get along without outside assistance.

HERB RIVERS RECUPERATES

Washington.—Herbert Rivers, secretary-treasurer of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department, is a patient at Georgetown Hospital, recuperating from injuries suffered in an auto accident in Montana, where he had gone to help contract negotiations. Mr. Rivers is keeping in daily touch with his duties from his hospital bed.

WINS $2 WEEKLY INCREASE

Oakland, Calif.—Lucky Chain grocery stores in Alameda and Contra Costa counties granted a $2-a-week wage increase to members of those unions enrolled by the AFL Retail Clerks' International Association. The raise ended a month-long strike.

WHO IS E. W.?

Washington.—A rumor that Margaret Truman is being squired by a labor editor whose initials are "E. W." kept labor union headquarters busy recently answering queries on his possible identity.

As this is written, no labor editor "E. W." is meeting the usual tests of eligibility for such a coveted honor—had yet been located.

Labor Piles Up Clear Sweep In Major Election Contests

Shelley Victory Adds to Liberal Bloc in Congress

Washington.—Tall, genial John F. Shelley, president of the California State Federation of Labor, will join a large group of trades unionists in Congress when he comes here to assume the seat he won in a special California election.

His victory, together with those of former Governor Herbert H. Lehman for the Senate in New York and Mrs. Edna Kelly for the House in Brooklyn, strengthens the liberal-labor bloc of votes in the Congress.

Mr. Shelley's triumph probably will make him the ranking organized labor trade unionist from the standpoint of official position in the labor movement. It is seldom also that a state federation president wins a seat in the Senate or House. The last before Mr. Shelley was Samuel Gompers, president of the Missouri State Federation of Labor.

Mr. Shelley is the son of a longshoreman, born September 5, 1908, in San Francisco. He joined the Teamsters Union Local 484 in San Francisco in January, 1929, served as vice president of the Bakery Drivers Local 24 and as president of the San Francisco Labor Council, and 2 successive terms as state federation president.

Before he served as state senator from San Francisco in the California legislature and as the Red Cross and War Chest. He is married and has a daughter. He was named a law degree at the University of San Francisco and is a member of the Elks, Eagles, Hibernians and Moose lodges.

Central Units Study Community Service

Champaign-Urbana, Ill.—111 in ois State Federation of Labor is bearing down on expanding the community activities of central labor unions to gain a wider understanding of labor's objectives.

Federation President Reuben G. Soderstrom headed the list of AFL officials scheduled to participate in a November 29 and 30 conference on the University of Illinois campus on central labor union activities.

Delegates from central and local labor bodies, colleges and universities study labor education, working with the public, community relations, public relations and legislation. AFL Education Director Nathaniel Alpert is staff writer.

Peter Bocktstabler, AFL representative on the welfare council of Champaign-Urbana, and Harold director of the AFL Workers Education Local 189, Decatur, Ill., executive assistant of the State, County and Municipal Workers of America; J. Elder, Midwest representative of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks; Harold Froelich, secretary Rockford Federation of Labor; Mrs. Agnes C. Hagerty, secretary-treasurer Milk Wagon Drivers Local 753, Chicago; Sidney Johnson, Chicago Carpenters District Council.

Sherdie Jones, president Twin Cities Federation of Labor; William A. Lee, president Chicago Federation of Labor; Ralph Helstein, public relations consultant American Federation of Labor; Charles Perry, representative International Chemical Workers Union; Mr. Soderstrom; Arthur F. Symond, vice president Illinois Federation of Teachers; Joseph Tobin, AFL representative Committee on Political Education; Jack J. Wachowski, president Chicago Postal Union; Harold Wade, secretary Peoria Trades and Labor Assembly.

New York Milk Drivers Win Fund for Pensions

New York.—The AFL Teamsters Union was a 10-cent-an-hour contribution to a pension fund from 163 milk processing and distributing firms for 15,000 milk drivers and inside workers.

The agreement running to Oct. 24, 1951 makes NO change in present wage scales and is the first time since 1942 that the parties settled in direct negotiations before a strike deadline.

Hubby's Good Wages Help Wifey

Chicago.—Who gets much of the benefit of those AFL-won pay raises?

The housewife.

And that, in fact, is not the opinion of an AFL member whose union membership and sometimes willingness to strike wins a deserved wage increase.

It's the view of John Salter Nice, one of the 5 labor members of a British productivity team which visited American plants and their families. A toolroom engineer at Colchester, England, Mr. Nice says American workmen are natural salesmen for the products they make.

"We visited several internal combustion engine plants producing tractors and in every one the workers told me they were sure their tractor is the best in the world," he said. "They believe it too."

He talked about the harmonious relations between management and men in the plants he visited and the advantages of the wage contracts of American unions. Then added:

"In America the housewife gets much of the benefits of high wages, as any one who visits one of those mechanized kitchens will readily see."

Which ought to make it pretty tough for any boss to turn down that next pay raise when it's due.

Labor Wins Big Victories in Ohio Elections

Columbus, O.—Labor-backed candidates and issues won victories in this November's crucial campaigns pointed the way to decisive gains in the Taft-Hartleyites in Congress next year and labor's enemies in state houses.

It is no time, AFL leaders said, to look back and rest though but a signal to dig in earnest after these 1950 victories.

AFL-backed candidates and issues, which had the support of all liberal forces and a majority of the people, piled up this impressive list of triumphs:

Congress

New York—Herbert H. Lehman elected to U. S. Senate.

California—John F. Shelley, president of the California State Federation of Labor, elected to House.

New York—Mrs. Edna Kelley, Brooklyn, elected to House.

Municipalities

New York City—Mayor William O'Dwyer reelected.

Pennsylvania—Pittsburgh reelected Mayor David Lawrence and Philadelphia put Democratic candidates in many city hall seats for the big city results regarded as enhancing the chances of Senator Francis Myers, labor's friend, for reelection next year in Pennsylvania.

Detroit—Albert E. Cobo elected mayor.

Other cities—Boston, Cleveland and other cities also elected candidates to many offices who ran with AFL endorsements.

State-Wide Issues

Virginia—Repeal of the poll tax and its replacement with a voice set of voting tests that would have wrecked labor's liberal polling strength was beaten overwhelmingly.

Ohio—Result close and in doubt whether liberal labor votes defeated Senator Robert A. Taft's bald attempt to steal 100,000 votes for his 1950 race for reelection by changing the state's election laws.

In many other states and cities, labor-backed candidates and issues won complete victories. Altogether they added up to the most impressive show of power and labor's strength in local and state elections yet recorded.

Some Defeats also

There were, naturally, also in the 1949 polling, many of them which are serious setbacks to liberal labor forces. In some of these reverses, however, labor can find encouraging factors. The margin of defeat some places in a small one, a better organization the next time or a little more effort in certain sections will bring the sought-after victories.

Says 1948 "No Accident"

Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, said the elections "throughout the country demonstrated beyond a doubt that the election victory of 1948 was not an accident."

"The American people have come of age and can no longer be terrorized by scare words and deceived by vague and meaningless promises. The elections were a vote of confidence for the program of labor and for the legislative accomplishments of the 81st Congress.

"Wherever there was a clean-cut contest between labor and a reactionary candidate, the liberal won. Labor has a responsibility to the United States Congress and Senate, LLPE-backed candidates and every victors in every case. In New York State we supported Herbert Lehman defeated Senator John Foster Dulles. Lehman is overwhelmingly supporting the AFL stands for. The president of the California State Federation of Labor, Jack Shelley, swept the 5th district of San Francisco. Mrs. Edna Kelly was elected by a wide margin in New York's 10th District.

"The city election victories in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, as will better Senator Francis Myers' chances for reelection next year.

"Below the Mason and Dixon line, Virginia voters turned down in referendum by a 5-to-1 vote the cleverly devised proposal by the state machine to further limit voting rights of the people.

"In all of these contests LLPE gave direct support. Wherever, as we say, labor votes alone are not sufficient to win an election, but the hard work and the complete unity of effort on the part of our officers and rank and file members have proven that we have the balance-of-power votes that mean the difference between victory and defeat for labor's candidates.

Contrary to what the reactionary newspaper columnists say, the officers of the AFL are united in their respect and support of their member. The Executive Council of the AFL knows at stake and when given effective leadership the members of AFL trade unions have shown that they will give full and active support to deserving candidates on election day."

GET $4 WEEKLY RAISE

San Francisco.—The Stereotypers and Electrotypers Union of the AFL won a $4 a week wage increase after a five-day strike against seven firms.

Succeeds Wagner

HERBERT H. LEHMAN
Senator from New York

AFL Pilots Urge Colored Planes As a Safety Aid

Washington.—The AFL Air Line Pilots Association urged the Civil Aeronautics Board to order brightly-colored markings for all air line aircraft as a safety aid to prevent recurrence of crashes such as killed 50 persons at National Airport here.

Pilots' President David L. Behncke said that "bright-colored airplanes show up more conspicuously in flight than those painted in dull colors." The bright-colored flight planes may assist in preventing collision accidents."

Behncke criticized any attempt to withdraw from the case of the disastrous Washington accident. He said the only permanent remedy for making the air lines safer is creation of an independent Air Safety Board, as provided in pending legislation in Congress, to replace the "present non-independent and politically subservient, antiquated and outmoded methods of airline accident investigation and air safety regulations."

Tests of the pilots 3 safety recommendations were submitted to the Civil Aeronautics Board are:

(1) That all military and private airplanes be separated from air line aircraft and air line traffic at all high density traffic airports by radio control at all time, except where no other airport is available in the area. In short, busy air line airports should exclude all traffic of military and private airplanes which should be directed to community or municipal airports such as happened November 1, 1949, at Washington National Airport. At the airport it should be noted that the 2 military airports are in the immediate vicinity, one being actually within the airline approach pattern.

(2) That distinctive markings for all air line aircraft to prevent mid-air collision accidents during daylight hours be made mandatory as the earliest possible time. Orange and white, or red and black checkers are determined by test), checkered letters or other designs, be painted on top of vertical tail, ends of horizontal tail, wing tips and nose of fuselage and on the nose of fuselage of all other planes in the air line fleet to make it easily distinguishable and identifiable from other planes. The All marking schemes to be determined by proving tests in the interest of safety.

(3) That study and tests be made at the earliest possible time to create a method of identifying by code the flashing-lights of all air line airplanes and ground vehicles. Every air line aircraft, in conformance with present regulations of the CAB, give such aircraft right of way at all times.

SETS UP LOAN PLAN

Washington.—The Rural Electrification Administration announced that it is setting up machinery for handling loans to promote the financing of who may hereafter provide telephone service in rural areas and to cooperative, non-profit, limited dividend or mutual associations. The loans were authorized under the rural telephone act passed by the 81st Congress with AFL support.

AID BLIND WOMAN

St. Helens, Ore.—The Central Labor Council gave blind Mrs. Willa Robertson a seeing-eye dog and arranged for her to attend the training course of the Dogs for the Blind Foundation, San Francisco.

PRIEST SENT TO ILO; CLOSED SHOP EXPERT

Washington.—President Truman appointed Rev. Jerome J. Toner, dean of social sciences at St. Martin's College, Olympia, Wash., and expert on the trade union closed shop, as a delegate from the United States to the International Labor Organization's metal trades seminar at Geneva.

First priest so designated by a President of the United States, Father Toner is author of "The Closed Shop" and authority on labor-management relations.

Supports Winners For Senate and Two House Seats

Washington.—Organized labor led liberal forces to an impressive triumph in the major election tests.

The victories in this November's crucial campaigns pointed the way to decisive gains in the Taft-Hartleyites in Congress next year and labor's enemies in state houses.

It is no time, AFL leaders said, to look back and rest though but a signal to dig in earnest after these 1950 victories.

AFL-backed candidates and issues, which had the support of all liberal forces and a majority of the people, piled up this impressive list of triumphs:

Congress

New York—Herbert H. Lehman elected to U. S. Senate.

California—John F. Shelley, president of the California State Federation of Labor, elected to House.

New York—Mrs. Edna Kelley, Brooklyn, elected to House.

Municipalities

New York City—Mayor William O'Dwyer reelected.

Pennsylvania—Pittsburgh reelected Mayor David Lawrence and Philadelphia put Democratic candidates in many city hall seats for the big city results regarded as enhancing the chances of Senator Francis Myers, labor's friend, for reelection next year in Pennsylvania.

Detroit—Albert E. Cobo elected mayor.

Other cities—Boston, Cleveland and other cities also elected candidates to many offices who ran with AFL endorsements.

State-Wide Issues

Virginia—Repeal of the poll tax and its replacement with a voice set of voting tests that would have wrecked labor's liberal polling strength was beaten overwhelmingly.

Ohio—Result close and in doubt whether liberal labor votes defeated Senator Robert A. Taft's bald attempt to steal 100,000 votes for his 1950 race for reelection by changing the state's election laws.

In many other states and cities, labor-backed candidates and issues won complete victories. Altogether they added up to the most impressive show of power and labor's strength in local and state elections yet recorded.

Some Defeats also

There were, naturally, also in the 1949 polling, many of them which are serious setbacks to liberal labor forces. In some of these reverses, however, labor can find encouraging factors. The margin of defeat some places in a small one, a better organization the next time or a little more effort in certain sections will bring the sought-after victories.

Says 1948 "No Accident"

Joseph D. Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education, said the elections "throughout the country demonstrated beyond a doubt that the election victory of 1948 was not an accident."

"The American people have come of age and can no longer be terrorized by scare words and deceived by vague and meaningless promises. The elections were a vote of confidence for the program of labor and for the legislative accomplishments of the 81st Congress.

"Wherever there was a clean-cut contest between labor and a reactionary candidate, the liberal won. Labor has a responsibility to the United States Congress and Senate, LLPE-backed candidates and every victors in every case. In New York State we supported Herbert Lehman defeated Senator John Foster Dulles. Lehman is overwhelmingly supporting the AFL stands for. The president of the California State Federation of Labor, Jack Shelley, swept the 5th district of San Francisco. Mrs. Edna Kelly was elected by a wide margin in New York's 10th District.

"The city election victories in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, as will better Senator Francis Myers' chances for reelection next year.

"Below the Mason and Dixon line, Virginia voters turned down in referendum by a 5-to-1 vote the cleverly devised proposal by the state machine to further limit voting rights of the people.

"In all of these contests LLPE gave direct support. Wherever, as we say, labor votes alone are not sufficient to win an election, but the hard work and the complete unity of effort on the part of our officers and rank and file members have proven that we have the balance-of-power votes that mean the difference between victory and defeat for labor's candidates.

Contrary to what the reactionary newspaper columnists say, the officers of the AFL are united in their respect and support of their member. The Executive Council of the AFL knows at stake and when given effective leadership the members of AFL trade unions have shown that they will give full and active support to deserving candidates on election day."

GET $4 WEEKLY RAISE

San Francisco.—The Stereotypers and Electrotypers Union of the AFL won a $4 a week wage increase after a five-day strike against seven firms.

Steps For Local Housing Committees

Washington.—President Richard J. Gray of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Department listed for local AFL housing committees the 5 steps necessary to get public housing and slum clearance programs in effect under the 1949 federal law. They are:

1. There must be state enabling legislation. There is a special job to do in Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, which cannot participate in the program until enabling legislation is passed.

2. There must be a local housing authority in each community set up to plan and administer the program.

3. The local housing authority must make an application to the Public Housing Administration for a "program reservation." This is a request for an allocation of a specific number of units to be built during the first 2 years of the 5-year program authorized by the act.

4. The local housing authority must also apply to the Public Housing Administration for a preliminary loan. This application must be approved by the local city council.

5. The local housing authority and the city council must also draw up a cooperation agreement which, in many cities will mean either public hearings, a referendum or both.